



United States Attorney's Office  
District of Columbia

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United States Attorney

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## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Man Sentenced for Sexually Assaulting a 19 year-old Jogger**

**Washington D.C.** - Miguel Lopez-Perez, 27, formerly of the 900 block of Euclid Street N.W. was sentenced today to 5 years incarceration for sexually assaulting a 19 year-old woman in Washington D.C. earlier this year, U.S. Attorney Ronald C. Machen Jr. announced. Lopez-Perez pled guilty to one count of Attempt First Degree Sexual Abuse on April 28, 2010.

Evidence introduced at the plea hearing established that on April 3, 2010, the Defendant approached the 19 year-old victim and her friends as they were jogging in the vicinity of 14<sup>th</sup> Street N.W. The Defendant, who was intoxicated, asked the victim if she would help him find his way to Georgia Avenue. The victim and her friends kindly agreed to walk the Defendant in that direction. As they walked, the Defendant exposed himself and made sexual comments to the victim. The victim tried to run from the Defendant, but he pursued her.

When the victim reached the 2500 block of Georgia Avenue N.W., the Defendant caught her, threw her to the ground, and groped and tried to sexually assault her as she screamed and struggled to get free. As the victim continued to struggle, the Defendant punched her in the face. One of the victim's friends attempted to pull the victim away from the Defendant, but did not succeed. He then hit the Defendant in the head with a brick. The Defendant briefly released the victim, but then started to run back toward her to continue his assault. Ultimately, the Defendant had to be physically pinned to the ground by two city sanitation workers who were passing by to prevent him from continuing his assault.

While imposing the sentence today, the Honorable Michael Rankin characterized the offense as "vile" and found that a period of incarceration was warranted, despite the Defendant's lack of any violent criminal history. Lopez-Perez had faced a possible maximum sentence under the statute of 15 years in prison, and 1 ½ to 5 years in prison under the Superior Court Voluntary Sentencing guidelines. The sentence announced today is a split-sentence, which requires that the Defendant serve 1 year of his 5 year sentence, and then directs that he be placed on probation for five years. During his period of probation, the Defendant will be required to undergo a drug and alcohol assessment, and to successfully complete any treatment programs that are deemed necessary. If the Defendant's probation is revoked during this period, he may be ordered to serve the remaining 4 years of his jail sentence. Upon his release from prison, Lopez-Perez must

register under the Sex Offender Registration Act for life.

In announcing today's sentence, U.S. Attorney Machen expressed his appreciation to the Metropolitan Police Department, and particularly praised the work of Sexual Assault Unit Detectives Wallace Carmichael and Ingrid Harkins. The U.S. Attorney also commended the work of paralegal specialist Donahue Griffith, Victim Advocate Tracey Hawkins, and Assistant U.S. Attorney Karen Ditzler, who prosecuted the case.

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